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the Government have ordered to recover the commission from the village officers stating that they will be given the scales of pay from the date of taking over by the Government.

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : A separate question may be put, Sir.

Roads between Madras City and Avadi

* 3087 *Q.*—SRI P. JEEVANANDAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether any amount, and if so, how much, was spent by the Government in relaying, repairing or laying out new roads or on any other construction between Madras City and Avadi in connection with the Avadi Session of the All-India National Congress?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : A sum of Rs. 2·01 lakhs was incurred by the Government on road works to meet the needs of heavy traffic expected in and around Avadi.

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY : May I know whether those roads are now being maintained properly?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : Yes, ordinarily these works should have been carried out but we only accelerated them in view of the emergency.

SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI : Sir, is the Hon. Minister aware that out of the 500 miles of roads in the City, the Corporation was able to relay only 70 miles because of lack of financial resources? In view of that circumstance, will the Government in future at least be prepared to pay a much larger grant for roads in the main thoroughfares of the City, which are already in use?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : That is a separate question. That has no bearing on the present question.

Release of political prisoners

* 3088 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state with reference to the answer given to question No. 801 on 21st February 1955 whether the Government have any proposal under consideration for the release of Sri Arakkal Kunhiraman Nambiar and Sri P. Kunhiraman, convicted political prisoners from the Cannanore Central Jail?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : No such proposal is under the consideration of the Government.

SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Sir, this question has come up before this House several times. In view of the fact that those who were convicted along with these prisoners were released already and in

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view of the fact that there is general public opinion in Malabar demanding the release of these people and mass petitions and memoranda were presented to the Hon. the Chief Minister and the Hon. the Finance Minister, will the Government be pleased to consider this question sympathetically and release the political prisoners now undergoing imprisonment in the Cannanore Central Jail?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Sir, the expression "political prisoner" is a misnomer in this case, because these persons were convicted for murder—deliberate murder—and simply because there was a political motive for this murder, it would not make these prisoners "political prisoners" in that sense. Considering the crime and the circumstances under which these acts were committed, I am afraid it may not be possible for the Government to consider the question of their release at present.

SRI K. MADHAVAN NAMBIAR: Sir, will the Government be pleased to inform the number of representations received by the Government from the Members of this House and what was the reply to them?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: No doubt, Communist sympathisers have been pressing for the release of these prisoners. There is nothing surprising about it because the prisoners are Communists and therefore simply because there are representations from Communist sympathisers, I do not think the Government should be influenced by such representations, without taking into consideration the propriety of the release of these personers.

SRI V. GOPALA GOUNDER: On a point of information, Sir. Is it permissible to canvass votes within the House when the House is transacting business?

MR. SPEAKER: No, it is not in order.

SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI: Sir, in view of the proposed separation of Malabar from the Madras State, will the Government see that prisoners are released so that goodwill may prevail between the Government and the people?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I am sure the hon. Member is hoping that there would be a Communist Government in Kerala State. Then I suppose they may consider the question.

SRI C. H. KANARAN: The offences for which the persons were convicted were committed before August 1947. Persons convicted for similar offences were released by the Congress Government on the eve of the attainment of freedom. May I know why the prisoners in this case also had not been released? 9-40 a.m.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Releases had not been made as a general policy. Each case was examined on its merits

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and a decision taken. We examined this case also, but thought that it would not be advisable to release the prisoners considering the nature of their crime.

Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : From the answer given I infer that the Hon. Minister had not considered the case recently. The names of offenders implied in the answer are Sri Arakkal Kunhiraman Nambiar and Sri P. Kunhiraman. I would like to inform the Minister that Sri P. Kunhiraman was convicted not for committing a murder and that he had already been released. The actual prisoners in question are Sri Arakkal Kunhiraman Nambiar and Sri A. Krishnan. Therefore I hope the Hon. Minister will consider the Memorandum submitted by the M.L.A. representing the locality and the people of the area without any prejudice and take a decision on the merits of the case?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM : As far as Arakkal Kunhiraman Nambiar is concerned, he has been convicted for murder. The other prisoner has been convicted for dacoity. As regards the release of the prisoner, the case of not only political prisoners but all prisoners is reviewed periodically. So I am sure the case of this prisoner also will be reviewed periodically and his release ordered when the time is ripe.

Pottery industry

* 3089 *Q.*—Sri M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have any scheme for the development of the pottery industry in the State; and

(*b*) if so, whether a copy of the same will be placed on the table of the House?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) A list[a] of schemes sanctioned for the development of pottery in this State is placed on the table of the House.

Sri M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : May I know when the training centre at Alankar will be started and whether any stipend will be given to the trainees?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : In this centre four artisans will be trained for a period of one year in improved methods of making earthenware. The total cost of the scheme is Rs. 3,000 non-recurring and Rs. 6,400 recurring. We are getting a grant from the Government of India.

Sri M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : May I know when the centre will be started and whether the Government will consider the desirability of providing a common kiln for such centres in South Kanara wherever there is need for it?

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[a] Printed as Appendix III on page 344 infra.